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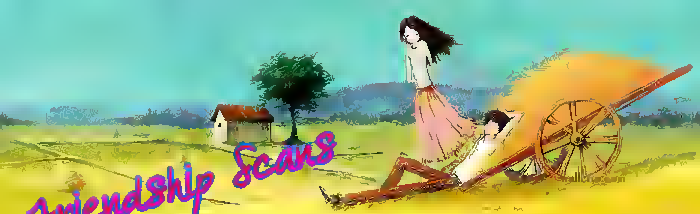


Friendship Scans

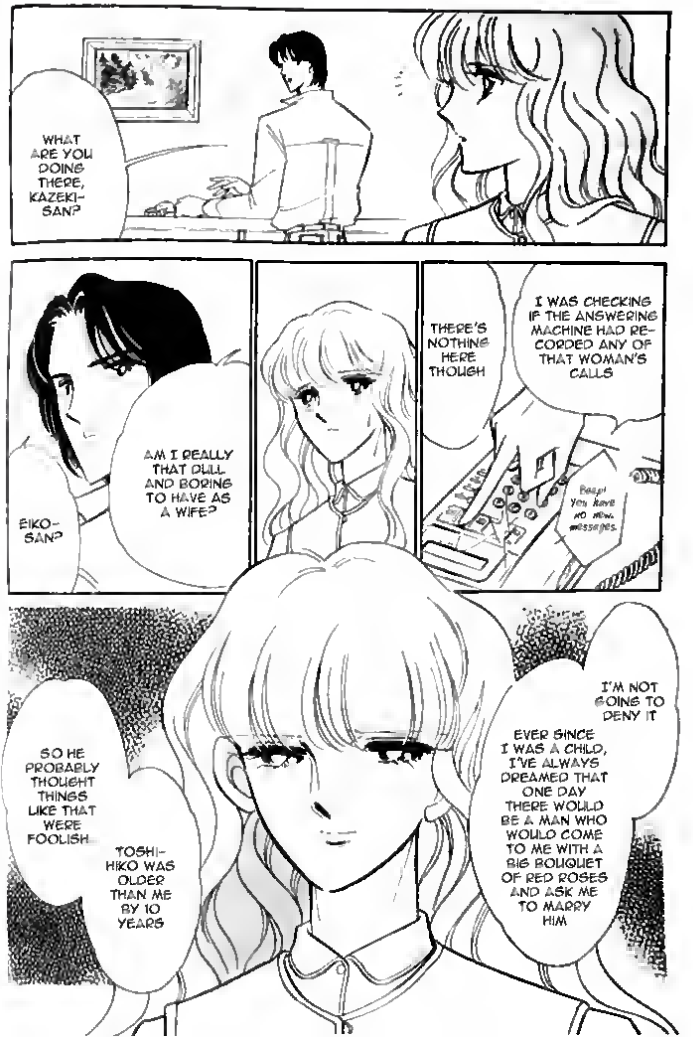
presents

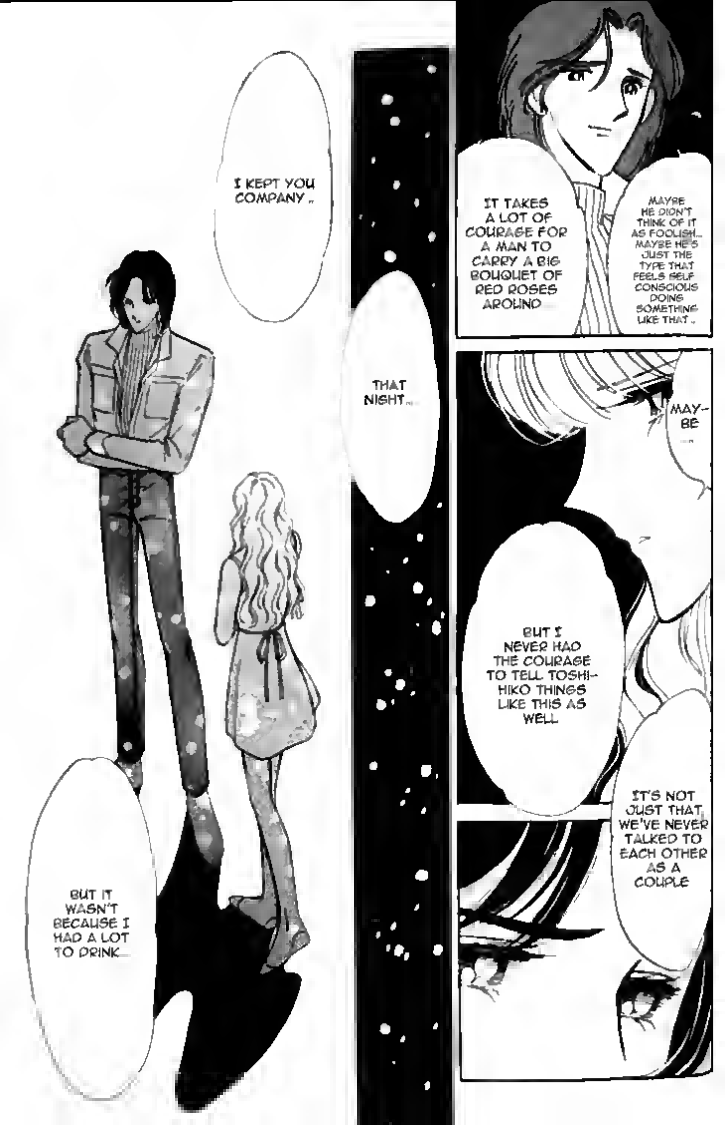
Toubou Kyuukou

Chapter 23

Translator:	Miraculous
Proofreader:	Mewoo
Cleaner:	Theadesiree
Typesetter	Katniss
C. Checker:	Cowsarenice

SO THIS IS THE PLACE TOSHIKO GOT JUST TO SEE THAT WOMAN..


WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, KAZEKI-SAN?
EIKO-SAN?
AM I REALLY THAT DULL AND BORING TO HAVE AS A WIFE?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE THOUGH
I WAS CHECKING IF THE ANSWERING MACHINE HAD RECORDED ANY OF THAT WOMAN'S CALLS
Beep! You have no new messages.
SO HE PROBABLY THOUGHT THINGS LIKE THAT WERE FOOLISH
TOSHIHIKO WAS OLDER THAN ME BY 10 YEARS
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED THAT ONE DAY THERE WOULD BE A MAN WHO WOULD COME TO ME WITH A BIG BOUQUET OF RED ROSES AND ASK ME TO MARRY HIM
I'M NOT GOING TO DENY IT


I KEPT YOU COMPANY..
BUT IT WASN'T BECAUSE I HAD A LOT TO DRINK...
THAT NIGHT...
IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE FOR A MAN TO CARRY A BIG BOUQUET OF RED ROSES AROUND...
MAYBE HE DIDN'T THINK OF IT AS FOOLISH... MAYBE HE'S JUST THE TYPE THAT FEELS SELF-CONSCIOUS DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
MAY-BE...
BUT I NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO TELL TOSHI-HIKO THINGS LIKE THIS AS WELL...
IT'S NOT JUST THAT WE'VE NEVER TALKED TO EACH OTHER AS A COUPLE

Kazeki -san.
IT WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MADE ME WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU..
AND HOLD YOU
Can I
Can I do this.

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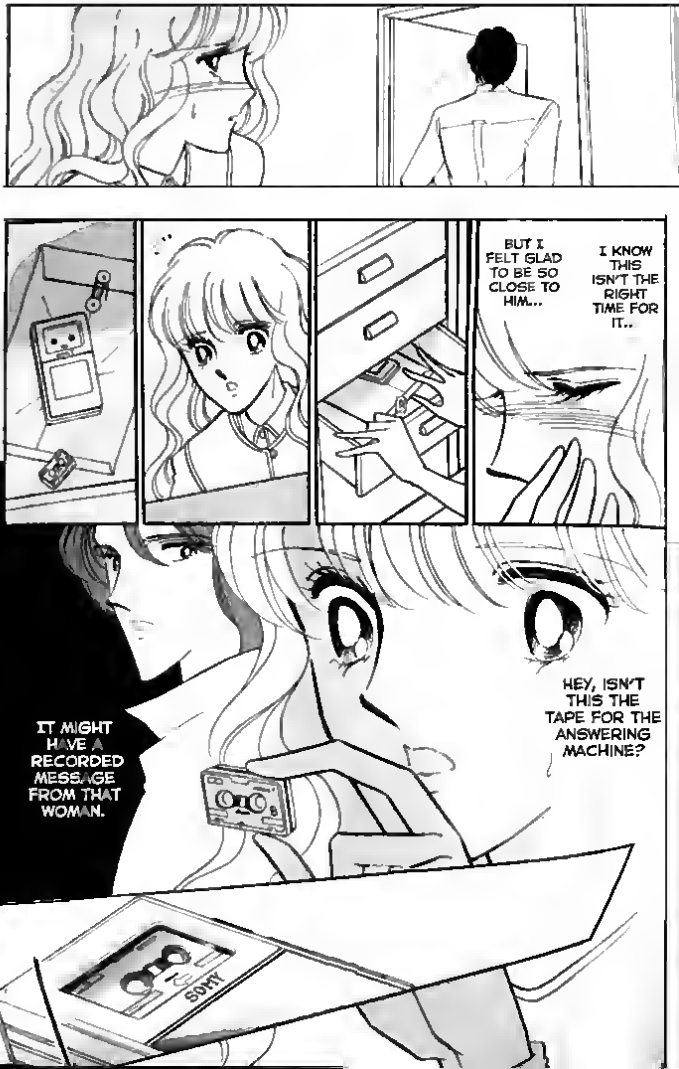
Thank you for reading!

Wait. Please wait.
Kazeki-san we shouldn't do this here.
We came here to look for clues about the murder.
Could you check the kitchen then? I'll look at the bedroom.
Yeah. You're right.
This isn't the time to be doing this.


I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR IT..
BUT I FELT GLAD TO BE SO CLOSE TO HIM...
HEY, ISN'T THIS THE TAPE FOR THE ANSWERING MACHINE?
IT MIGHT HAVE A RECORDED MESSAGE FROM THAT WOMAN.
SONY

WHAT? JANUARY 15th? THAT WAS THE DAY I MET WITH MY FRIENDS!
AND SUCCESSFULLY TAKE ME TO A HOTEL?!
January 15, 5:15pm.
Hello? Minamoto-senpai?
This is Kazeki
I just got your message. I'll do as you say then senpai. I'll go get your wife when she's done meeting up with her friends
Once I've successfully taken her to a hotel, I'll expect you to follow through with your end of the deal. I'll call you again, senpai

*the document says "Loan Certificate"

A LOAN CERTIFICATE? KAZEKI-SAN BORROWED MONEY FROM TOSHIHIKO?
SO WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT... TOSHIHIKO PLANNED IT OUT WITH KAZEKI-SAN?
AND MY PICTURES.. KAZEKI-SAN TOOK THESE! HE'S KNOWN ME EVEN BEFORE THIS?

KAZEKI-SAN!
.....
KAZEKI-SAN! PLEASE TELL ME I JUST HEARD WRONG!
YOU KNEW MY HUSBAND?!
WE DIDN'T MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT NIGHT?!
And you offered to help me so you could find this tape and the loan certificate?
Our meeting on the overpass wasn't a coincidence either?
MINAMOTO-SAN.
YOUR HUSBAND WAS MY SENPAI WHEN I WAS IN UNIVERSITY

I OFFERED TO BE THE PERSON YOU WOULD CHEAT ON HIM WITH...
ON THE CONDITION THAT MY DEBT WOULD BE COMPLETELY CLEARED...
I HAD PREVIOUSLY BORROWED MONEY FROM SENPAI. SO I COULDN'T TURN DOWN HIS REQUEST
HE WANTED TO REJECT YOUR PLEA FOR DIVORCE SO HE WANTED SOME PROOF THAT YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING WRONG
I FOLLOWED YOU AROUND FOR A MONTH BUT I COULDN'T FIND FAULT WITH ANYTHING YOU DID. SENPAI DECIDED TO CREATE A SCENARIO WHERE YOU WOULD BE UNFAITHFUL TO HIM

YOU... YOU PEOPLE HAVE GONE TOO FAR!
HOW COULD YOU?!
THE PERSON WHO KILLED TOSHIHIKO...
EIKO-SAN...
THAT'S RIGHT...
IF THE POLICE WERE TO FIND THE TAPE AND THE LOAN CERTIFICATE, HE WOULD BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE...
THAT NIGHT... I DRANK SO MUCH THAT I PASSED OUT. THAT GAVE HIM ENOUGH TIME TO LEAVE THE HOTEL...

FALLING INTO AN OPEN MANHOLE, BEING STRANGLED...
THINGS LIKE THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO ME UNTIL I MET KAZEKI-SAN!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY-MORE!
THOSE THINGS WERE MEANT TO KILL ME-, AND AFTER I GOT FRAMED FOR MURDER TOO...
EIKO! WAIT!

EIKO!
DAMN!
IT HURTS SO MUCH MORE THAN WHEN I FOUND OUT TOSHIHIKO WAS SEEING WOMEN BEHIND MY BACK...
WHY?
WHY DOES MY HEART HURT SO MUCH...

EIKO-CHAN, GET INSIDE!
AAHHH!
MEGUMI-CHAN!
ロロロオ
EIKO!

TAKE THIS, EIKO-CHAN
COFFEE
Th-Thanks.
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
Yeah. But Masumi-chan, why would you be there.
I COULDN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOU.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW EIKO-CHAN?
I should just go to the police.
I'm sorry I caused you so much trouble.

DON'T THINK OF IT LIKE THAT
EIKO-CHAN.
MEGUMI-CHAN..
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS IN THAT APARTMENT COMPLEX?
I CAN'T MOVE...
WAS I DRUGGED?
HUH?

SO I KILLED HIM!
YOU REALLY ARE A NAIVE SHELTERED RICH GIRL!
YOU TOTALLY HAD NO CLUE ABOUT TOSHIHIKO AND I.
BUT HE SAID YOU WERE BETTER THAN ME, THAT HE HAD NO REASON TO LEAVE YOU SO HE COULD MARRY ME
THAT'S WHERE TOSHIHIKO AND I HAVE OUR PASSIONATE TRYSTS.
HOW COULD I NOT KNOW?
YOU WERE ASKING HOW I KNEW I WOULD BE THERE?
OUR "LOVE NEST"!

YOU KILLED HIM?
MEGUMI-CHAN,
WRONG. YOU KILLED HIM
YOUR CONSCIENCE COULDN'T HANDLE KILLING HIM SO YOU KILLED YOUR-SELF
AND YOU,
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL ME EARLIER
EXACTLY. GOODBYE, EIKO-CHAN
SAYONARA

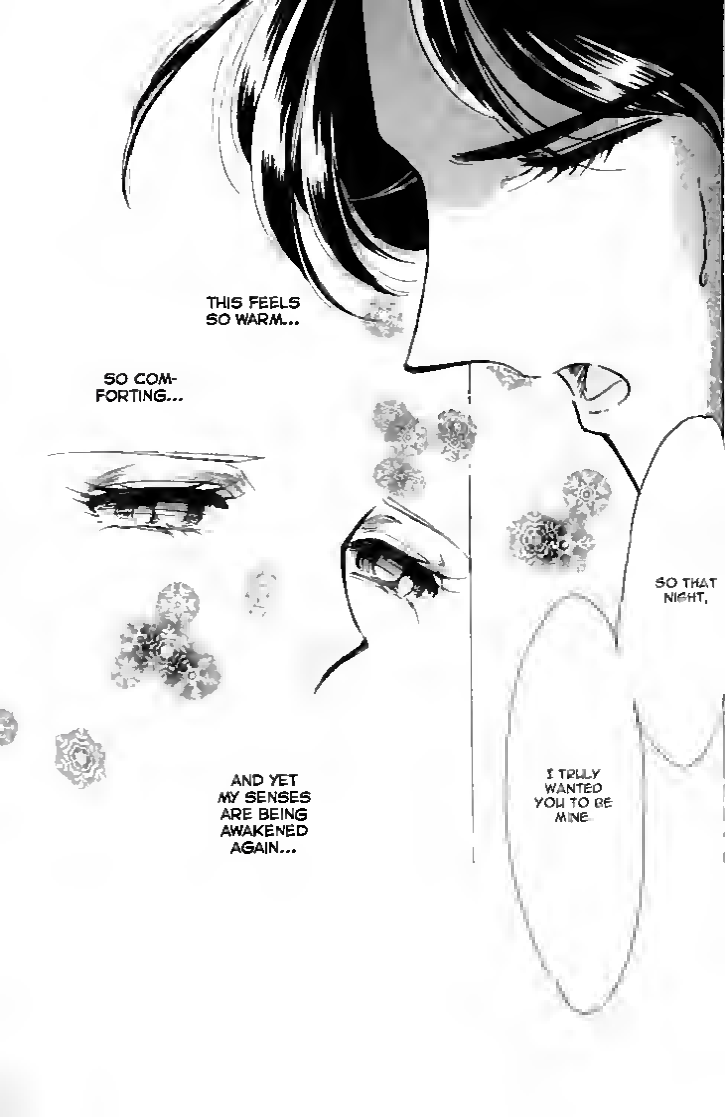
STOP!
BLOOD DYED THE SNOW BRIGHT RED...
I DON'T FEEL PAIN, NOR DO I FEEL COLD
KAZEKI-SAN...

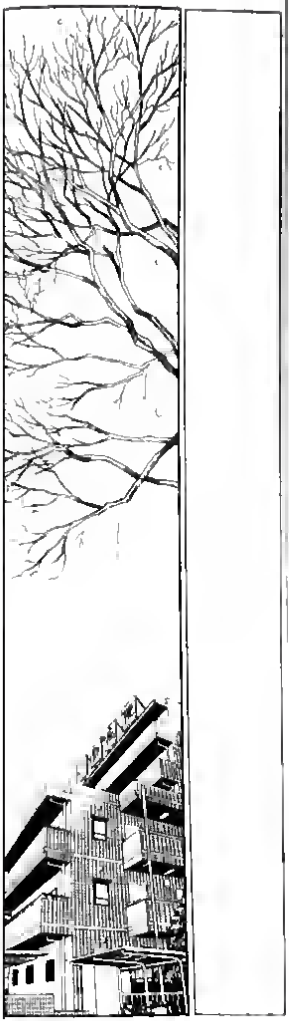
THE POLICE ?!
EIKO!
STOP!
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME, EIKO!

KAZEKI-
SAN!

QUICK! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
YOITA MEGUMI, WE ARE ARRESTING YOU AS A SUSPECT FOR THE MURDER OF MINAMATO TOSHIHIKO
WE WERE ALREADY ON THE RIGHT TRACK WITH THE INVESTIGATION THOUGH WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SLOWED DOWN AT FIRST...
ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND'S EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIRS... MINAMOTO-SAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT THIS TO US
BUT YOU!
THE FERSON I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE TAPE AND THE LOAN WASN'T THE FOLICE
But now the police will know that you're linked to the crime.
Were you the one who called?
Kazeki-san
YES, I WAS...

IT'S TRUE
I WAS ACTING ON SENPAI'S REQUEST
BUT WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOU, WANTING TO HOLD YOU, WASN'T A LIE
WHEN I WAS DOING SENPAI'S BIDDING, FOLLOWING YOU AROUND FOR A MONTH, I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU


THIS FEELS SO WARM...
SO COM-FORTING...
SO THAT NIGHT,
I TRULY WANTED YOU TO BE MINE.
AND YET MY SENSES ARE BEING AWAKENED AGAIN...



CAN I?

CAN I DREAM THAT DREAM AGAIN?

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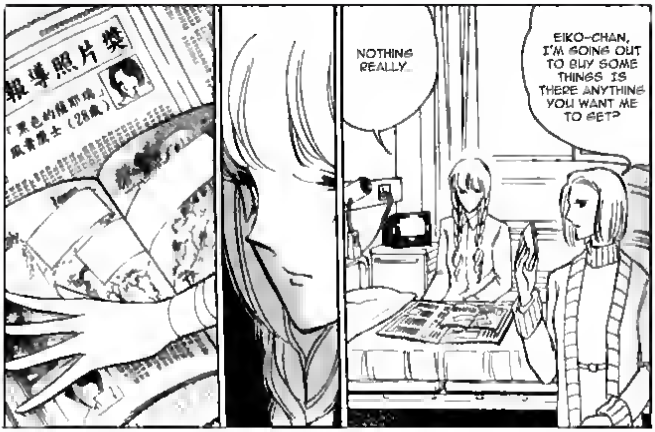
報導照片裝
NOTHING REALLY.
EIKO-CHAN, I'M GOING OUT TO BUY SOME THINGS. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO GET?

ONCE MORE...

AND NOW...
I'M WAITING FOR THE MAN WHO WOULD CARRY A BOUQUET OF ROSES AND ASK ME TO MARRY HIM...
CAN I DREAM THAT DREAM AGAIN?

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